



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- *Fox News* reports that, according to the survey conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a commercial pilot and his first officer were both asleep as they approached their destination. The pilot stated that, in the end, he “landed with no further incidents.” (See items [14](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that the head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was asked to explain his agency’s approach to inspecting drugs domestically and overseas. The House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations said the FDA’s overwhelming emphasis on domestic inspections and lack of focus on imports place the public at risk, as more and more drugs come from overseas. (See item [24](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 1, Bloomberg* – (National) **Nymex natural gas rises as supplies hit record, top forecasts.** Natural gas in New York rose after a government report showed that U.S. inventories last week rose to a record and more than analysts expected. Prices fell when the report was released, advancing almost immediately as crude oil hovered near \$93 a barrel after touching \$96.24 in overnight trading. Expansion estimates ranged from 40 billion to 65 billion cubic feet. The five-year average increase for the week is 26 billion. Stockpiles rose 66 billion cubic feet to a record 3.509 trillion cubic feet last week, the

U.S. Energy Department report showed.

Source:

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=a\\_QsT33TeFcg&refer=energy](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=a_QsT33TeFcg&refer=energy)

2. *November 1, The San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Regulators approve S.F. power plant.** San Francisco energy officials have unanimously approved building a \$230 million power plant near Potrero Hill, a project they say will finally let the city close an older, dirtier plant nearby. Wednesday's vote by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission represented one of the last government approvals needed before construction can begin on the plant. The commission's staff now must finalize an agreement with J-Power, a Japanese power company that would build the plant. Once up and running, the plant will eliminate the need for an older power plant nearby, owned by Mirant Corp. of Atlanta. The plant, which will have three combustion turbines burning natural gas, was designed to supply power only when the state's need for electricity is high. The J-Power contract will specifically state that the plant will run only when the state's power grid manager, the California Independent System Operator, decides it is needed.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/11/01/BU9UT498I.DTL>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

3. *November 1, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **State to inspect plants for chemical fire clues.** State fire investigators will visit Barton Solvents Inc. branches in the Quad Cities and Council Bluffs, Iowa this week to examine operations and try to piece together what caused a fire and chemical explosions Monday at the company's Des Moines plant. The probe has so far focused on a shut-off valve used in the transfer of solvents from storage tanks. The state fire marshal said Wednesday that state and federal investigators have not yet sorted through the debris at the Des Moines site, which erupted in a spectacular series of fireballs fueled by ethyl acetate, which is commonly used in glues and nail polish removers. Investigators want to examine how Barton employees move the compound to portable containers. Monday's fire and explosions were touched off during that process.

Source:

<http://www.altoonaherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071101/NEWS/711010393>

4. *November 1, PRWeb* – (National) **7000+ chemical plants to spend hundreds of millions on regulatory compliance.** Homeland Security's new Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) demand widespread hardening of chemical facilities. In April 2007, experts projected only about 10,000 chemical plants would need to submit to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Top Screen in 2007. As of October 1, 2007, a staggering 40,000+ plants have submitted Top Screens for review. The government and the petrochemical industry are facing the fact that our critical infrastructure is currently being targeted for attack and that vulnerability exists. Many chemical plants, previously thought to be negligible to our national security, have been

found to play integral roles in the stability of our nation's critical infrastructure. In order to meet the new regulations, chemical facilities must implement significant new security measures. These include electronic surveillance systems, card and gate access control and perimeter security. Furthermore, compliance with DHS regulations will require chemical facilities to develop comprehensive security plans and clearly defined protocols to mitigate the risk of a terrorist attack.

Source: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2007/11/prweb565896.htm>

5. *November 1, News 14 Carolina* – (North Carolina) **Chemicals leave plant employees sick.** Five workers at a west Charlotte, North Carolina food packing plant were taken to the hospital early Thursday morning and treated for apparent chemical poisoning. Charlotte firefighters responded to the packing plant. All five employees complained of breathing trouble and firefighters say it was likely caused by the cleaning chemicals. The rest of the employees were evacuated and those who were arriving for work waited outside while firefighters controlled the situation. The affected workers were treated for possible carbon monoxide poisoning, but the cause might have been other chemicals they were using.

Source: [http://news14.com/content/local\\_news/charlotte/589056/chemicals-leave-plant-employees-sick/Default.aspx](http://news14.com/content/local_news/charlotte/589056/chemicals-leave-plant-employees-sick/Default.aspx)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

6. *November 1, WGAL 8* – (Pennsylvania) **New security team takes over at nuclear plant.** A new security detail is in place at Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania nuclear power plant after guards were caught sleeping on the job. Video of the sleeping guards was recorded by a fellow guard and made public in September. The nuclear plant's owner, Exelon Nuclear, terminated its contract at Peach Bottom with Wackenhut, the security firm that employed the guards. The new security force will be run by Exelon.
7. *November 1, Arkansas Democrat Gazette* – (Arkansas) **Special inspection set at nuclear power plant.** Arkansas Nuclear One near Russellville, Arkansas will be the subject of a special inspection after an electrical fire last week, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Wednesday. A team of two specialists will review electrical breaker problems that affected a piece of safety equipment, prompting an alert on October 23, "as well as a similar electrical fire in October 2006 that also led to an alert," the agency said. Both incidents occurred at the Unit Two reactor and each triggered a Level 2 alert, the second-lowest of four emergency classifications. Inspectors will evaluate the response to both events, the cause of the problems and corrective actions. A written report of their findings will be available 30-45 days after the completion of the inspection.

Source: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/206243/>

8. *October 31, The Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Nuclear plant near Berwick back to normal after shutdown.** Things are back to normal at PPL's Susquehanna Nuclear

Power Plant near Berwick, Pennsylvania following a shutdown of one unit for planned maintenance. Unit 1 was shut down for more than two weeks. It is generating power again after being restarted Tuesday. PPL says it chose this time for maintenance because it is the time of year when the least electricity is used. Unit 2 operated normally during the shutdown.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/news/state/story/248412.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *November 1, Spacewar* – (National) **Northrop Grumman demonstrates new air and missile defense technologies during U.S. Army Patriot exercise.** Northrop Grumman demonstrated several new air and missile defense battle management tools last month during a 10-day U.S. Army exercise focusing on net-centric upgrades to the Patriot missile communications system. The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command conducted the Patriot communications enhancement technology demonstration exercise September 17-28 to prepare Patriot to be part of the next-generation Army integrated battle command system. Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems sector participated in the exercise. The company demonstrated that advanced battle command capabilities such as real-time collaborative planning could be achieved with available tactical radios. Source:

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Northrop\\_Grumman\\_Demonstrates\\_New\\_Air\\_And\\_Missile\\_Defense\\_Technologies\\_During\\_US\\_Army\\_Patriot\\_Exercise\\_999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Northrop_Grumman_Demonstrates_New_Air_And_Missile_Defense_Technologies_During_US_Army_Patriot_Exercise_999.html)

10. *October 31, Business Weekly* – (National) **U.S. to improve chemical warfare defense capabilities.** The Department of Defense (DOD) has contracted Owlstone Nanotech to adapt its specialist sensor technology for the detection of chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals and trace explosive vapors. Owlstone was awarded the incremental \$3.7 million contract through an agency of the DOD to develop, design and fabricate a customized variant of its miniaturized chemical detector using Field Asymmetric Ion Mobility Spectrometry (FAIMS). This customized version of the sensor will be designed to detect substances at exceptionally low levels while dramatically reducing false alarms that are typically associated with competing technologies.

Source: [http://www.businessweekly.co.uk/news/view\\_article.asp?article\\_id=12719](http://www.businessweekly.co.uk/news/view_article.asp?article_id=12719)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *November 1, The Providence Journal* – (International) **Check-cashing scam used Job Lot's name.** According to Ocean State Job Lot's, a scam illegally used its name to randomly target people around the United States. The scam apparently ran out of Canada and involved a fraudulent \$40,000-per-check cashing scheme. People began receiving letters from a company describing itself as Boyer Financial, Inc. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. With each letter was a bogus check for about \$3,850. The checks appeared as though they had been issued by Ocean State Jobbers, Inc., parent company

of Ocean State Job Lot, which has locations in several states in the U.S. People who got the letters were told they would receive “a grant” — free money totaling \$40,000 — from the federal government if they simply cashed the enclosed check, faxed information back to the sender and called the “grant advisor.” The remainder of the \$40,000 would then be sent to the person. Job Lot said law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island, Maine, California, Wisconsin, Ohio, and New Hampshire are aware of 33 scam letters brought to their attention.

Source: [http://www.projo.com/business/content/BZ\\_JOBLOTSCAM\\_11-01-07\\_RB7MMRP\\_v9.2625238.html](http://www.projo.com/business/content/BZ_JOBLOTSCAM_11-01-07_RB7MMRP_v9.2625238.html)

12. *October 31, Rotary International* – (International) **New e-mail scam targeting Rotarians.** Rotary International (RI) has learned about a new e-mail phishing scam targeting Rotarians. The scam e-mail claims that a deceased Rotarian has left money to the e-mail recipient to be donated to philanthropic efforts. The sender, who claims to be the executor of the will, then asks for the recipient’s personal information, including a copy of the individual’s passport and driver’s license, in order to claim the inheritance. The organization mentioned that it does not solicit funds through e-mail, nor does it ask that personal information be updated by e-mail or other electronic means. RI encourages Rotarians to avoid becoming victims of these scams by deleting any e-mail that appears suspicious.

Source:

[http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/071031\\_news\\_scam.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/071031_news_scam.aspx)

13. *October 31, Surf Santa Monica* – (California; National) **Assembly member warns of fraudulent email.** A new scam surfaced involving an email from the Internal Revenue Service asking for a donation to aid victims of the recent Southern California fires. The email, which seems to originate from outside the U.S., appears to be a message from State Assembly member Julia Brownley urging people to help in the wake of the wildfires that swept Southern California this month, according to a statement issued by her office Wednesday. The email uses the text of a brief radio address delivered by the legislator last weekend, according to the statement. “My immediate goal is to do everything possible to get the word out that the e-mail did not come from me or anyone associated with me, and that no one should open the ‘IRS’ link,” Brownley said. The email, Brownley said, “has taken my original posted remarks, and... has deleted the Assembly website and replaced it with a phony website address that appears to go to an IRS ‘help’ site that does not exist.”

Source: [http://www.surfsantamonica.com/ssm\\_site/the\\_lookout/news/News-2007/October-2007/10\\_31\\_07\\_Assembly\\_Member\\_Warns\\_of\\_Fraudulent\\_Email.htm](http://www.surfsantamonica.com/ssm_site/the_lookout/news/News-2007/October-2007/10_31_07_Assembly_Member_Warns_of_Fraudulent_Email.htm)

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## **Transportation Sector**

14. *October 31, Fox News* – (National) **Pilot, 1<sup>st</sup> officer slept while approaching Denver, lawmakers say.** The chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee held a hearing Wednesday to discuss why the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) did not publicly release its surveys, which were part of an \$11 million program

called the National Aviation Operations Monitoring Service. One piece of information available in the report regards a commercial pilot, who had recently switched schedules to flying three “red eyes” in a row between Denver and Baltimore with only one hour between flights. On March 4, 2004, during the third late-night flight, the pilot and his first officer were fast asleep when they were approaching Denver. The pilot said that he missed all calls from the air-traffic controller. The report continues, saying that the plane was supposed to be traveling at less than 290 mph, but they were moving at about 590 mph. The pilot stated that, in the end, he “landed with no further incidents.”

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,307019,00.html>

15. *October 31, The Associated Press* – (National) **NASA will release disputed air safety research.** A National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) official sent a letter to lawmakers in advance of Wednesday’s hearing saying that Congress can review the project data on the \$8.5 million survey of some 24,000 pilots, but that any confidential commercial information must be removed before it can be released publicly. Officials who have worked on the survey, however, have said it contains no pilot or airline names. The questionnaire asked pilots to state how many times in the previous 60 days they had encountered a wide range of problems with equipment, weather, tower communication and other safety issues. NASA’s efforts to withhold the safety research sparked criticism on Capitol Hill and in the editorial pages of dozens of leading newspapers. Earlier this month, NASA ordered the contractor that conducted the survey to return any project information, then purge all related data from its computers. However, the NASA administrator assured lawmakers that NASA will not destroy the research. The survey project, called National Aviation Operations Monitoring Service, was launched after a White House commission in the late 1990s called for government efforts to significantly reduce fatal aircraft accidents.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-10-31-nasa-air-safety\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-10-31-nasa-air-safety_N.htm)

16. *October 31, The Associated Press* – (New York) **Man who caused JFK scare went to smoke.** The passenger, who caused two terminals to be evacuated and passengers to be re-screened at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, said that he breached security after going outside to smoke and then misplaced his boarding pass. He went through another door and was able to get to his flight’s gate. Tuesday’s incident led to thousands of passengers and dozens of flights being delayed for several hours during the evacuation and subsequent security re-screening. The passenger walked up an exit lane past a private security guard, who later notified the Transportation Security Administration of the security breach, sparking a search for the man at terminals two and three, the federal agency said. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the airport, called the Albany County sheriff to say the man had boarded a plane to Albany. Deputies there took him in for questioning. After checking the passenger’s carry-on luggage, officials found a straight razor. The TSA said in a statement on its Web site that “there is no known nexus to terrorism at this time.”

Source: [http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8SKAD400&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8SKAD400&show_article=1)

17. *October 31, NBC News* – (National) **GAO: Easy to cheat on trucker drug tests.** Undercover federal investigators with the Government Accountability Office (GAO)



discovered that it was surprisingly easy to cheat on random drug tests designed to catch truck drivers who use drugs, the agency said in a report scheduled to be made public Thursday. The investigators, who used bogus truck driver's licenses to gain access to 24 drug-testing sites, found that 75 percent "failed to restrict access to items that could be used to adulterate or dilute the [urine] specimen, meaning that running water, soap, or air freshener was available in the bathroom during the test." Moreover, the GAO team also bought drug-masking products over the Web and was able to mix them with real specimens at the drug-testing sites "without being caught by site collectors." However, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Department said driver errors, not drug use, caused most accidents. The Transportation Department estimates that fewer than 2 percent of truck drivers test positive each year for controlled substances in random federal tests. But when Oregon law enforcement officials conducted their own random tests this year, 9 percent tested positive. Spokesmen for the trucking industry said truck drivers were among the safest drivers on the road, with much lower rates of drug use than the general population. Still, they said, having roughly 30,000 drivers test positive each year was unacceptable.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21568973/>

18. *October 31, The Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Naperville train station scare a false alarm.** Following reports of a "suspicious package" left by two men outside a Naperville train depot in Illinois, police evacuated temporarily the train depot and the immediate surrounding area. Metra trains on the railroad tracks were stopped in both directions and schools in the area were told to lock down. When DuPage County bomb squad personnel opened the suitcase, they discovered men's clothing and food. Although police said they do not think any criminal activity occurred, they were looking to question two men who were seen hiding the suitcase.

Source: [http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-metra\\_webnov01\\_0,2683621.story?coll=chi-living-front](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-metra_webnov01_0,2683621.story?coll=chi-living-front)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

19. *November 1, WRTV Channel 6 Indianapolis, Indiana* – (Indiana) **Authorities: Postal Worker had bomb-making materials.** A postal worker was arrested on October 27 after conservation officers found bomb-making materials, guns, marijuana and other illegally possessed items on his rural Carroll County property in Indiana. According to a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer, the postal worker "stepped over the line of being an avid gun collector when he allegedly began manufacturing various bombs and explosive devices." Investigators believe that several of the items, "including a thermal sight imager designed for a TOW missile and various pieces of body armor," were taken unlawfully from the U.S. military; the man in question is a U.S. Army veteran. Officers also found in the home, "numerous pieces of anti-government propaganda representing his belief that the (Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist) attacks were organized by the United States government." It is unknown what was intended with the weaponry and bomb-making materials.

Source: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/14475721/detail.html>

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

20. *November 1, The Associated Press* – (National) **Cropland prices shackle some farmers.** The increasing cost of cropland is preventing farmers from growing their operations, the *Associated Press* reports. Average cropland values in the U.S. rose by 13 percent to \$2,700 per acre this year, up from \$2,390 last year, according to the Department of Agriculture. In Ohio, the price jumped 10.7 percent, to \$3,920 an acre. The increasing value of cropland is fueled by higher prices for commodities, including corn which has become more expensive recently due to the demand for ethanol. Land developers are also buying up farmland near urban areas. The value of U.S. cropland has steadily increased since at least 1998, when the average price for an acre was \$1,340. This year, Ohio and other Midwestern states saw double-digit percentage increases in value over 2006.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5izrj8anPoPFJKWGVG9FIQu3Dh5bgD8SKQ8900>

21. *November 1, Wildcat Online* – (National) **UA researchers identify sources of food tainting.** In the wake of the vegetable recalls in the last year, two University of Arizona researchers published a research-based article titled “Safer Salads” that provided insight to both food producers and consumers about how to prevent the spread of pathogens. According to their research, the two bacteria usually responsible for contamination are salmonella and E. coli. The researchers suspect that “there has been more and more contamination from animals to vegetables, because that’s normally where the bacteria originate from.” They also pointed to the condition of infrastructure such as irrigation systems as a source of problems.

Source:

<http://media.wildcat.arizona.edu/media/storage/paper997/news/2007/11/01/News/Ua.Researchers.Identify.Sources.Of.Food.Tainting-3071753-page2.shtml>

## **Water Sector**

22. *November 1, The Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Activists push for water agreement.** Michigan legislators need to pass measures to protect Great Lakes water from southern and western states, a coalition of environmental groups said October 31. People speaking on behalf of the group Great Lakes, Great Michigan said that if the Great Lakes Compact is passed by Michigan and seven other states, it likely could win approval in Congress before the completion of the 2010 census. The Great Lakes Compact is an agreement among the eight states bordering the lakes to prevent diversion of water to other parts of the country and to develop wise-use management plans for water within the Great Lakes drainage basin. The initiative gained importance recently when a democratic presidential hopeful suggested that water from the Great Lakes could be diverted to other areas of the country if the country had a national water policy.



Source:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071101/NEWS06/711010383/1008>

23. *October 31, The Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Cost for replenishing water in Odessa aquifer could top \$6 billion.** The study director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said that the four alternatives for putting back up to 513,300 acre-feet of water in the Odessa aquifer in Washington could cost between \$2 billion and more than \$6 billion, or as much as \$45,000 per acre-foot. The study is being done as one of 10 steps before the bureau can recommend how to use Columbia Basin Project surface water to replace ground water in the aquifer that is being depleted by hundreds of agriculture wells in the Odessa Subarea. The aquifer has dropped at an average rate of 7 feet per year for decades. Some growers have been forced to deepen their wells to more than 2,000 feet to find enough water to sustain their potato fields. The Columbia River policy coordinator for the state Department of Ecology said \$600 million a year and up to 7,500 jobs are at risk if the aquifer crisis becomes a worst-case scenario. Public comment about the appraisal report, which includes the alternatives and preliminary cost estimates, will be accepted through November.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/story/9418957p-9331635c.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *November 1, The Associated Press* – (National) **Foreign drugs get little scrutiny by FDA.** The head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is being called before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations on Thursday to explain his agency's approach to inspecting drugs domestically and overseas. Members of the committee say the FDA's overwhelming emphasis on domestic inspections and lack of focus on imports place the public at risk, as more and more drugs come from overseas. An estimated 80 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients used to make drugs sold in the U.S. are imported. Among finished drugs, an estimated 40 percent are made abroad. According to congressional investigators, foreign manufacturers of drugs, for which inspections are not mandated by law, can go eight or more years between inspections, whereas domestic manufacturers are inspected at least once every two years. "The FDA plans to inspect just 300 foreign drug firms this year, announcing in advance its intent to do so each time. Of those inspections, most are of plants that make drugs awaiting FDA approval. Just 15 are of the type of periodic assessment meant to ensure a company's products remain safe in the years following FDA approval, though some pre-approval inspections also include some post-approval surveillance. In contrast, the FDA comes close to inspecting the roughly 3,300 domestic drug manufacturers once every two years as required."

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071101/ap\\_on\\_go\\_ot/fda\\_foreign\\_drugs;\\_ylt=Al\\_qvatrqzFu0nP8.Ssplv.s0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071101/ap_on_go_ot/fda_foreign_drugs;_ylt=Al_qvatrqzFu0nP8.Ssplv.s0NUE)

25. *November 1, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. healthcare comes up short in survey of 7 nations.** According to a new report released on Thursday, Americans spend double what

people in other industrialized countries do on health care, but have more trouble seeing doctors, are the victims of more errors and go without treatment more often. The report, issued by the Commonwealth Fund-- a private foundation that supports research on health systems--said Americans spent \$6,697 per capita on healthcare in 2005, or 16 percent of gross domestic product. All the other countries spent less than half of that amount-- \$3,128 in Australia or 9.5 percent of GDP, \$3,326 in Canada or 9.8 percent of GDP, down to a low of \$2,343 in New Zealand or 9 percent of GDP. The report is available on the Internet at:

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/26/6/w717T>.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN31355765>

26. *October 31, News 4, Jacksonville* – (Florida) **Another school gets ‘superbug’ scare.**

Parents of students at a Jacksonville, Florida elementary school were notified on Wednesday that the school building was being cleaned, after administrators learned that someone at the school was infected with the drug-resistant strain of staph commonly referred to as MRSA. The principle assured parents that proper safety precautions were being taken.

Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/health/14473530/detail.html>

27. *October 31, CNN Money* – (National) **More toys recalled on lead paint hazard.**

According to a warning by the Consumer Product Safety Commission Wednesday about 380,000 Galaxy Warriors toy figures made in China and sold at Family Dollar Stores nationwide from January 2006 to October 2007 are being recalled due to surface paints containing excessive levels of lead.

Source:

[http://money.cnn.com/2007/10/31/news/companies/galaxywarrior\\_recall/index.htm?section=money\\_latest](http://money.cnn.com/2007/10/31/news/companies/galaxywarrior_recall/index.htm?section=money_latest)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

28. *November 1, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **1 man may be behind school**

**bomb threats.** Police in Chesterfield County believe that the same person, an adult male, is responsible for making numerous bomb threats to local schools, shopping centers, and airports. According to the police captain, the threats contained similar phrases. The threats have repeatedly interrupted instruction at the schools. Police have now assigned multiple detectives to help identify the person responsible.

Source: <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/news.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2007-11-01-0170.html>

29. *November 1, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Chemical scare evacuates campus.**

A high school in Antioch, California was evacuated in the morning of October 31 due to chemical fumes, which the police suspect was a, “Halloween prank gone bad.” A county hazardous material team arrived, but did not find anything besides the odor, as the substance dissipated before investigators could identify it. The Antioch police captain said that “The chemical appears to be a moderate irritant, similar to pepper spray.” 22

students were sent to various medical facilities with watery eyes and burning throats. Police are pursuing several leads and are confident the prankster will be caught.

Source: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\\_7338982](http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_7338982)

30. *November 1, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **30 arrested in immigration raid near Fort Benning**. On October 30, federal immigration agents arrested 30 workers on charges of immigration violations. The 27 Mexicans and three Guatemalans were building a museum of military history near Fort Benning, Georgia. The workers were employed by various subcontractors. ICE also arrested illegal workers at Fort Benning last January, as they arrived to work on a barracks project. These arrests are not expected to affect the completion date of the museum – November 2008.

Source: [http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/11/01/raid\\_1102.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/11/01/raid_1102.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

31. *November 1, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **Omnalink combines GPS, cellular for tracking**. Location-based services technology provider Omnilink Systems unveiled a GPS-based offering designed to allow law enforcement to track the location of suspects in real-time using both satellites and ground-based cellular networks. The service combines Omnilink's FocalPoint software and a tracking device housing both a GPS antenna and cellular antenna that allows a person or asset to be tracked even if outside of GPS coverage. Omnilink notes that it has partnership arrangements with both AT&T Mobility and Sprint Nextel Corp. Omnilink notes the service can be implemented using a magnet mount installed on a suspect's car for vehicle tracking or into the packaging of a product to track its location.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071101/FREE/71101002/1012>

32. *November 1, Newswise* – (National) **Triage study challenges notions of emergency medical response to disaster**. Many fundamental assumptions underlying regional trauma systems -- such as the notion that it is imperative to send the sickest patients to the hospital first -- have rarely been subjected to rigorous scientific scrutiny. Now, for the first time, researchers at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center have created a computer simulation model of trauma system response to mass casualty incidents involving dozens or hundreds of injured victims. The study shows that the best response depends more on the capability of regional hospitals to treat critically injured victims, than on the ability to accurately identify those victims in the field. "There's been the notion gleaned from prior studies that 'overtriage' -- letting some people into emergency care who might not actually need it -- usually ends up costing lives, with deaths rising as overtriage rates increase. But our new model demonstrates that overtriage alone is unlikely to be the culprit," said the project's lead researcher. Instead, levels of overtriage can be beneficial, harmless or detrimental, depending on complex factors included in the researchers' model, he says. Those factors include the capacity of medical facilities to deal with the wounded and the time it takes to process and care for patients. The bottom line, according to the researchers, is that the

“best” triage strategy during a mass casualty event is probably one that takes into account a variety of local and regional factors, which means that use of the model should spur regional collaboration and information sharing. The study is published in a special October supplement on mass casualty incidents of the journal *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, which focuses on the Virginia Tech shooting. Source: <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/534997/?sc=rsmn>

33. *October 31, Rocky Mountain News* – (Colorado) **Agencies in better contact than in '99.** Colorado’s public safety agencies are in better radio contact with one another now than during the 1999 Columbine High School shootings, but improvements are still needed, state auditors told legislators Tuesday. The audit found the Department of Local Affairs does not track the number of radios or linking devices that local public safety and first-responder agencies need, or the additional training and exercises their staffs require. The state has spent \$135 million during the past nine years to improve radio communications between agencies. The effort came partly in response to struggles by police and others first on the scene at Columbine to communicate effectively with each other because of inadequate radio systems. A unified “digital trunked radio system” now covers about 86 percent of the state’s geography, auditors said. That coverage will improve to 94 percent of Colorado by next year said the director of the state’s Division of Information Technologies. But auditors said the state’s radio systems and management still need significant work. They made several recommendations, including creating a board to oversee interagency communications and prioritizing grants for radio system upgrades to areas at the greatest risk of needing them. Source: [http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/government/article/0,2777,DRMN\\_23906\\_5735519,00.html](http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/government/article/0,2777,DRMN_23906_5735519,00.html)

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## **Information Technology**

34. *November 1, Computerworld* – (National) **Rare Mac Trojan prowling.** A Trojan horse targeting Macs, a rare security event, has been spotted on numerous pornographic Web sites, researchers said Wednesday. First reported by Mac security software maker, Intego of Austin, Texas, and later confirmed by Sunbelt Software, McAfee Inc., and the SANS Institute’s Internet Storm Center, “OSX.RSPlug.a” changes the Mac’s DNS (Domain Name System) settings to redirect users to alternate or spoofed sites. “The whole Trojan is relatively simple and works almost exactly the same as its brother for Windows,” said an analyst at Internet Storm Center (ISC) in a warning posted early Thursday. “The bad guys are taking Mac seriously now,” he said, adding that “this is a professional attempt at attacking Mac systems, and they could have been much more damaging.” Sunbelt’s CEO agreed, posting in his blog that “this is the first targeted, real attack on Mac users by a professional malware group.” When users click on a link to watch video on one of the malicious porn sites, a dialog box tells them QuickTime needs to install additional software. “Quicktime Player is unable to play movie file. Please click here to download new version of codec.” Depending on the browser’s settings, the download may mount a disk image and launch an installer automatically. After that,

OSX.RSPlug.a silently changes the DNS server the Mac looks to for resolving addresses, and lets the attackers decide which legitimate page requests to silently shunt to URLs of their choosing. Intego's advisory claims the redirects are to sites crammed with ads for more porn sites, or to phishing sites.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9044998&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9044998&intsrc=hm_list)

35. *October 31, IDG News Service* – (National) **Microsoft continues its pursuit of software pirates** Microsoft Corp. Wednesday broadened its efforts to stop people pirating its products, launching a piracy-related Web site and announcing that it has filed 20 more lawsuits against alleged dealers of counterfeit or pirated software. The new Web site provides information on how users can tell whether software is genuine or not. The site shows examples of suspicious packaging and gives other clues that Microsoft hopes will help users discern whether they are buying deal or fake copies of Windows and other products. For the Web site and more information see:

<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/howtotell/>.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9044944&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9044944&intsrc=hm_list)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

36. *November 1, The Mercury News* – (National) **Critics say cell phone system isn't ready for next big earthquake.** In the aftermath of Tuesday's minor earthquake in Northern California, many cell phone calls failed to get through, while some land lines were briefly spotty. Many of those affected were left trying to determine how they should communicate when the next one hits. Cell phone providers acknowledged brief disruptions in service, but say their systems are not designed to accommodate the dramatic increases in call volume that occurred in the minutes after Tuesday's 8:04 p.m. Alum Rock quake. In a bigger disaster, cell phone companies say, people should not count on being able to use their cell phones immediately. Yet regulatory advocates question if enough attention is being paid to whether the companies are putting enough resources into the network capacity needed in a disaster. The dilemma isn't a new one. During the Minnesota bridge collapse earlier this year, some people on the scene said they couldn't get a connection -- even though cell phone carriers said they tried to move quickly to meet the increased demand. An AT&T spokesman acknowledged that the

trouble extended to both the company's wired and wireless networks, but the disruption among wireless carriers highlighted the extra risks faced by the growing number of people who rely solely on cell phones. Verizon Wireless said customers placed 2.3 million calls in Santa Clara County from 8 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, up from a typical average of 300,000 during that hour. There were no power or network failures, but the activity meant numerous calls failed as "ineffective attempts" because of the congestion. Sprint Nextel declined to give specific numbers but said its wireless call volume increased tenfold in the San Jose area from 8 to 9 p.m., with the number of blocked calls rising about sevenfold. To keep phone systems working for people in emergency situations, disaster-preparedness organizations and the wireless carriers urge customers to avoid making unnecessary calls. They also suggest utilizing text messages, which can be sent to groups of recipients, take up a much smaller amount of a network's resources, and free up transmission capacity for urgent calls.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/valley/ci\\_7337719?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/valley/ci_7337719?nclink_check=1)

37. *November 1, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **Omnalink combines GPS, cellular for tracking.** Location-based services technology provider Omnilink Systems unveiled a GPS-based offering designed to allow law enforcement to track the location of suspects in real-time using both satellites and ground-based cellular networks. The service combines Omnilink's FocalPoint software and a tracking device housing both a GPS antenna and cellular antenna that allows a person or asset to be tracked even if outside of GPS coverage. Omnilink notes that it has partnership arrangements with both AT&T Mobility and Sprint Nextel Corp. Omnilink notes the service can be implemented using a magnet mount installed on a suspect's car for vehicle tracking or into the packaging of a product to track its location.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071101/FREE/71101002/1012>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

38. *October 31, The Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Aid sought for Riverside County wind damage.** Damage-assessment teams composed of representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and county and state emergency agencies toured Riverside County on Wednesday to gauge the extent of havoc wreaked by last week's windstorm. The inspection was in response to a request by Riverside County officials, who are seeking amendments to the wildfire state-of-emergency declarations for Southern California issued by President Bush and the Governor of California. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday authorized spending up to \$100,000 to assist affected residents and businesses with cleanup costs over and above what private insurance covers. Details of the plan are being sorted out by the county Economic Development Agency.

Source:

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_fema01.3c6d360.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_fema01.3c6d360.html)

39. *October 31, WSBT Channel 22 South Bend, Indiana* – (Indiana) **Empty suitcase creates**



**bomb scare in South Bend.** A bomb scare in downtown South Bend, Indiana resulted in police evacuating the old county courthouse and a bank on the morning of October 31. The bomb squad looked inside of the package and broke it apart; they determined that it was someone's empty suitcase. The South Bend Police Division believes it was left there accidentally and does not think that it was a hoax device.

Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/10915456.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

40. *October 31, The Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Lightning damages Gettysburg monument.** A monument at the Gettysburg National Military Park was struck by lightning on October 9, and may need to be completely disassembled to assess the damage. The damage may be worse inside the granite monument, because the lightning could have superheated the moisture that is naturally present in the stone and mortar. The park service estimates that it will cost about \$100,000 to repair. This was the first known lightning damage to a monument at Gettysburg National Military Park since the 1930s.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/103-10312007-1433198.html>

41. *October 31, WVLT-TV Knoxville, Tennessee* – (North Carolina; Tennessee) **Association says plant would threaten smoky mountains.** A coal-fired electricity plant, proposed by Duke Energy, would threaten the air quality in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, according to the National Parks Conservation Association. The 800-megawatt plant would be built at the Cliffside coal power plant in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

Source: <http://www.volunteertv.com/home/headlines/10917201.html>

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## **Dams Sector**

42. *November 1, Ohio Farmer* – (National) **Legislation supports dam rehabilitation.** Last week, the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007 was introduced by Senators from Ohio and Hawaii. The legislation will establish a program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund dam rehabilitation and repairs. The House version of the bill passed and now awaits Senate action. The fund would award grants to states to repair, rehabilitate or remove publicly-owned deficient dams. This legislation would authorize \$200 million to help rehabilitate these dams.

Source: <http://ohiofarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=30659&fpstid=2>

43. *October 31, Associated Press* – (California) **Earthquake prompts levee inspections in California's delta.** State and local inspectors examined sections of California's levee system on October 31, a day after a moderate earthquake rattled a wide area of northern and central California. Experts said the magnitude-5.6 earthquake was too far from the delta to threaten the state's water supply. Recent studies have shown that large parts of

the delta's 1,600-mile levee system could crumble during an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 or greater. Preliminary surveys immediately following the earthquake showed only superficial damage at Dos Amigos Pumping Plant, about 85 miles southeast of San Jose, where some plaster fell off the wall.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/newsflash/louisiana/index.ssf?/base/news-35/1193874243179200.xml&storylist=louisiana>

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## **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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